

VIA WHITE HOUSE CHANNEL

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December 14, 1973

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TO: Henry A. Kissinger

FROM: Brent Scowcroft *BS*

The staff meeting this morning was <sup>almost</sup> entirely devoted to Watergate associated discussion. Bryce Harlow led off by pointing out that there is a powerful coalition, composed of groups like UMW, AFL/CIO, ACLU, etc., campaigning in a major lobbying effort to impeach the President. These are the same groups who were against him in the 1972 election and their goal is a political coup d'etat. The discussion then turned to whether or not we should be for prompt House action on impeachment. There were arguments on both sides but the consensus finally seemed to be that we should not discuss timing but maintain the thesis that there were no grounds for impeachment. Especially after all of the disclosures had been published, we should push for a vote to kill impeachment proceedings rather than for an up and down vote on impeachment itself.

Herb Stein then asked whatever happened to the first <sup>rate</sup> ~~great~~ team of lawyers we were going to get, in view of the fact that the various prosecution ~~groups~~ <sup>boys</sup> had legal staffs totalling well over one hundred. Haig responded that there were two <sup>principal</sup> ~~principle~~ problems: One was a source of money to hire the lawyers, the other was finding a top-notch man to head the team. Many of

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the President's closest lawyer friends had backed away from the job.

Haig did say he had a legal team now assembled and working on the disclosure papers and would have another to concentrate on the impeachment issues. He said he was <sup>also</sup> ready to order someone to run the legal show.

(While he did not mention this in the meeting, that individual is apparently Ken Rush).

Warm regards.

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